

'Based on Misunderstanding'

White House Denies Nixon's Cuba Claim

WASHINGTON — ~~Open~~ — The White House Tuesday denied former Vice President Richard M. Nixon's statement that President Kennedy was told during the 1960 election campaign of U.S. plans to support an invasion of Cuba.

Nixon charged in his new book, "Six Crises," that Kennedy endangered U.S. security when he came out publicly Oct. 20 for U.S. intervention in Cuba and aid to anti-Castro forces. Nixon said Kennedy previously had been briefed by the Central Intelligence Agency on plans for the Cuban invasion.

Allen W. Dulles, CIA director at the time, corroborated the White House contention. In a statement released through the CIA, Dulles said the briefings given Kennedy during the campaign did not cover any plans by the government for "overt or covert" action such as the Cuban invasion.

Dulles said in a memorandum to present CIA Director John A. McCone that only "the Cuban situation" in general was included in the Kennedy briefings. Dulles said "there has been, I believe, an honest misunderstanding" by Nixon concerning the content of summaries given to Kennedy.

In challenging Nixon's version — obviously with the President's approval — the White House suggested that his account was "apparently based on a misunderstanding." It said Kennedy was not informed about the proposed invasion until a month after he had spoken out — and after he had been elected.

"The President does not believe that intelligence briefings are a proper subject of public debate," Press Secretary Pierre Salinger said, "but in the light of the account in Mr. Nixon's book it is necessary to say that the then Sen. Kennedy was not told before the election of

1960 of the training of troops outside of Cuba or of any plans for 'supporting an invasion of Cuba.'"

"Sen. Kennedy received two briefings from Mr. Allen Dulles of the CIA, the first on July 23, 1960 and the second on Sept. 19, 1960," Salinger said. "The two briefings covered an overall review of the world situation, during which Cuba was mentioned."

"But Sen. Kennedy was first informed of the operation to which Mr. Nixon refers in a briefing by Allen Dulles and Richard Bissell of the CIA, (deputy director for operations) given in Palm Beach on Nov. 18, 1960."